

**SAN ANTONIO****POLICE**

Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207
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Contact: Sgt. Gabriel Trevino

Date: 10-30-05

Release No. 05-165

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following: On October 30, 2005, at approximately 6:00pm, San Antonio Police Officer Mark Morales was patrolling in the Walgreen's parking lot, located at US 281 and Bitters Rd. While patrolling, Officer Morales saw two male suspects inside a vehicle, which was parked in front of the Walgreen's. Officer Morales saw an exchange of an unknown item occur between the occupants and another car, which Officer Morales felt to be suspicious. Officer Morales approached the suspect car from the driver's side and asked both occupants for identification. The passenger of the suspect car presented a drivers license, however, the driver refused and began to start the vehicle. Officer Morales reached in the suspect car in an attempt to turn the car off, but was unsuccessful and was then forced to hold onto the suspect car as the driver backed out of a parking slot. As the driver backed out, and while Officer Morales was holding on, the driver was continually striking Officer Morales on the head. Officer Morales was able to spray the driver with pepper spray, which caused the driver to push his car door open, causing Officer Morales to fall to the ground.

After falling, Officer Morales pursued the suspect on foot towards the Luby's Restaurant. As the suspect and Officer Morales approached the Luby's, the suspect fell and took out a handgun from a bag he was carrying. The suspect then pointed the handgun towards Officer Morales and attempted to fire. Officer Morales was unable to fire his service weapon due to several Luby's customers in the line of fire. The chase continued until another suspect car suddenly appeared and allowed the suspect to enter the passenger side and flee the scene.

A pursuit then ensued between those suspects and other SAPD marked patrol cars. The pursuit continued onto Wurzbach Parkway, N/B on Perrin Beitel/Nacogdoches Rd and then W/B on Loop 1604E. The pursuit ended at Redland Rd (access Rd) and Loop 1604N when the suspect collided with another car in the intersection. After the collision, both suspects ran on foot from the scene with Officer Nathan Sandoval, a 3 year veteran, and Officer Mark Molter, a 1 year veteran, pursuing on foot. As the original suspect attempted to cross Loop 1604, he turned and again



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pointed his handgun towards both officers. Officer Sandoval and Molter both fired their service weapons, striking the suspect multiple times. That suspect subsequently died at the scene. The second suspect was taken into custody by other SAPD officers and a SAPD K-9. That suspect sustained a dog-bite and will be treated for his injury.

The identity of both suspects will be withheld pending formal charges and notification of next of kin. The occupants of the vehicle struck by the suspects car sustained minor injuries.

The San Antonio Police Department's shooting Team is handling the investigation and will submit their findings to Police Chief Albert A. Ortiz and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As per policy, Officer Sandoval and Officer Molter will be placed on administrative duty while the investigation continues.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE